DC
ALL-STAR SQUADRON
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IN THIS CORNER--
THE TWO-FISTED TARANTULA
VERSUS THE VENGEFUL VILLAIN FROM VALHALLA!
JOE KUBERT
DC
WHERE THE ACTION IS!

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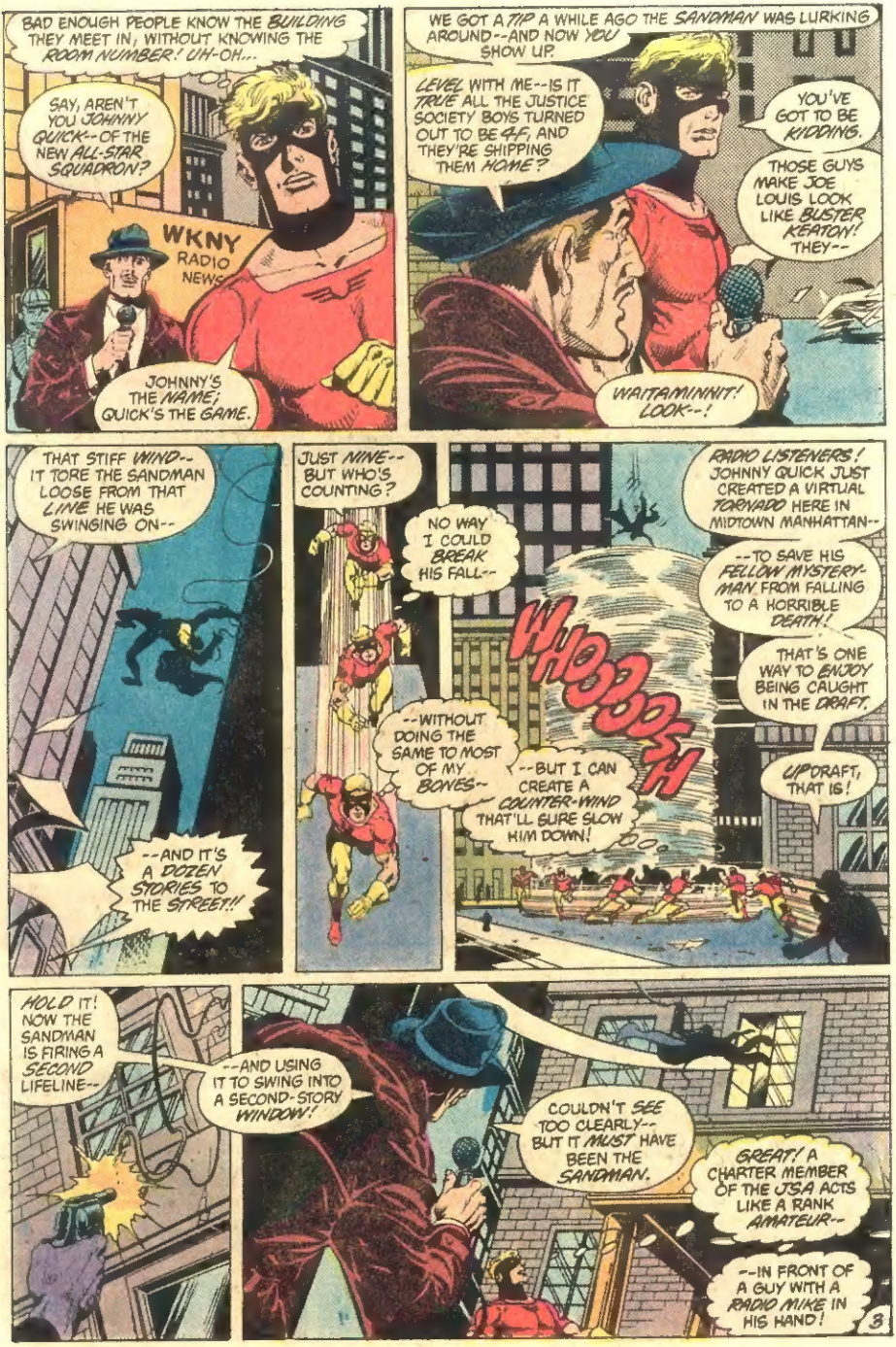
"OUR" HQ, DID I SAY? WE'RE STILL JUST HOUSE-SITTING FOR THE JUSTICE SOCIETY, WHILE THEY'RE ALL WEARING KHAKI.
HMMM... THAT THUNDERSTORM THE PAPERS PREDICTED IS GETTING CLOSER--AND WINDIER--
--THOUGH IT'S AN ILL WIND THAT DOESN'T BLOW THIS OL' TRACK STAR SOME GOOD.
HMMM-- NICE LEGS!
OHHH-- MY PURSE--!
DON'T WORRY YOUR PRETTY HEAD, SISTER...
IT'LL NEVER EVEN...
...HIT THE GROUND.
THANKS! BUT-- YOU MOVE SO FAST!
ARE YOU THE FLASH?
REALLY KNOW HOW TO HURT A GUY, DON'T YOU?
EVEN IF THE FLASH IS MY EVER-LOVIN' IDOL!
IT'LL BE GREAT TO SEE THE OTHER ALL-STARS AGAIN-- ESPECIALLY BELLE.
WONDER HOW ROBOTMAN'S MAKING OUT-- SINCE THAT SHYSTER'S OFF HIS BACK, AND THE COURTS HAVE DECLARED HIM OFFICIALLY HUMAN. *
MUST STILL BE TOUGH ON HIM AND HIS GAL-FRIEND JOAN, KNOWING THEY CAN NEVER--
* LAST ISSUE. --LEN.
HELP WIN THE WAR! BUY WAR BONDS!
HEY NOW! THAT PURPLE-AND-YELLOW SWINGER UP THERE-- GOTTA BE THE SANDMAN, BACK TO WEARING HIS CAPE!
LAST WE HEARD, HE WAS IN ARTILLERY-- DUE TO BE SHIPPED OUT.
SEE!
THE SAND MUST'VE GOT TO HIS BRAIN, THOUGH-- MAKING RIGHT FOR THE TOP STORY THAT WAY.
DOES HE WANT THE WHOLE WORLD TO KNOW THAT'S WHERE THE JSAers HANG THEIR HEAD-GEAR?
2


BAD ENOUGH PEOPLE KNOW THE BUILDING THEY MEET IN, WITHOUT KNOWING THE ROOM NUMBER! UH-OH...
SAY, AREN'T YOU JOHNNY QUICK--OF THE NEW ALL-STAR SQUADRON?
WKNY RADIO NEWS
JOHNNY'S THE NAME; QUICK'S THE GAME.
WE GOT A TIP A WHILE AGO THE SANDMAN WAS LURKING AROUND--AND NOW YOU SHOW UP.
LEVEL WITH ME--IS IT TRUE ALL THE JUSTICE SOCIETY BOYS TURNED OUT TO BE 4-F, AND THEY'RE SHIPPING THEM HOME?
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.
THOSE GUYS MAKE JOE LOUIS LOOK LIKE BUSTER KEATON! THEY--
WAITAMINNIT! LOOK--!
THAT STIFF WIND-- IT TORE THE SANDMAN LOOSE FROM THAT LINE HE WAS SWINGING ON--
--AND IT'S A DOZEN STORIES TO THE STREET!!
JUST NINE-- BUT WHO'S COUNTING?
NO WAY I COULD BREAK HIS FALL--
--WITHOUT DOING THE SAME TO MOST OF MY BONES--
WHOOOOSH
--BUT I CAN CREATE A COUNTER-WIND THAT'LL SURE SLOW HIM DOWN!
RADIO LISTENERS! JOHNNY QUICK JUST CREATED A VIRTUAL TORNADO HERE IN MIDTOWN MANHATTAN--
--TO SAVE HIS FELLOW MYSTERY-MAN FROM FALLING TO A HORRIBLE DEATH!
THAT'S ONE WAY TO ENJOY BEING CAUGHT IN THE DRAFT.
UP DRAFT, THAT IS!
HOLD IT! NOW THE SANDMAN IS FIRING A SECOND LIFELINE--
--AND USING IT TO SWING INTO A SECOND-STORY WINDOW!
COULDN'T SEE TOO CLEARLY-- BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN THE SANDMAN.
GREAT! A CHARTER MEMBER OF THE JSA ACTS LIKE A RANK AMATEUR--
--IN FRONT OF A GUY WITH A RADIO MIKE IN HIS HAND!
3

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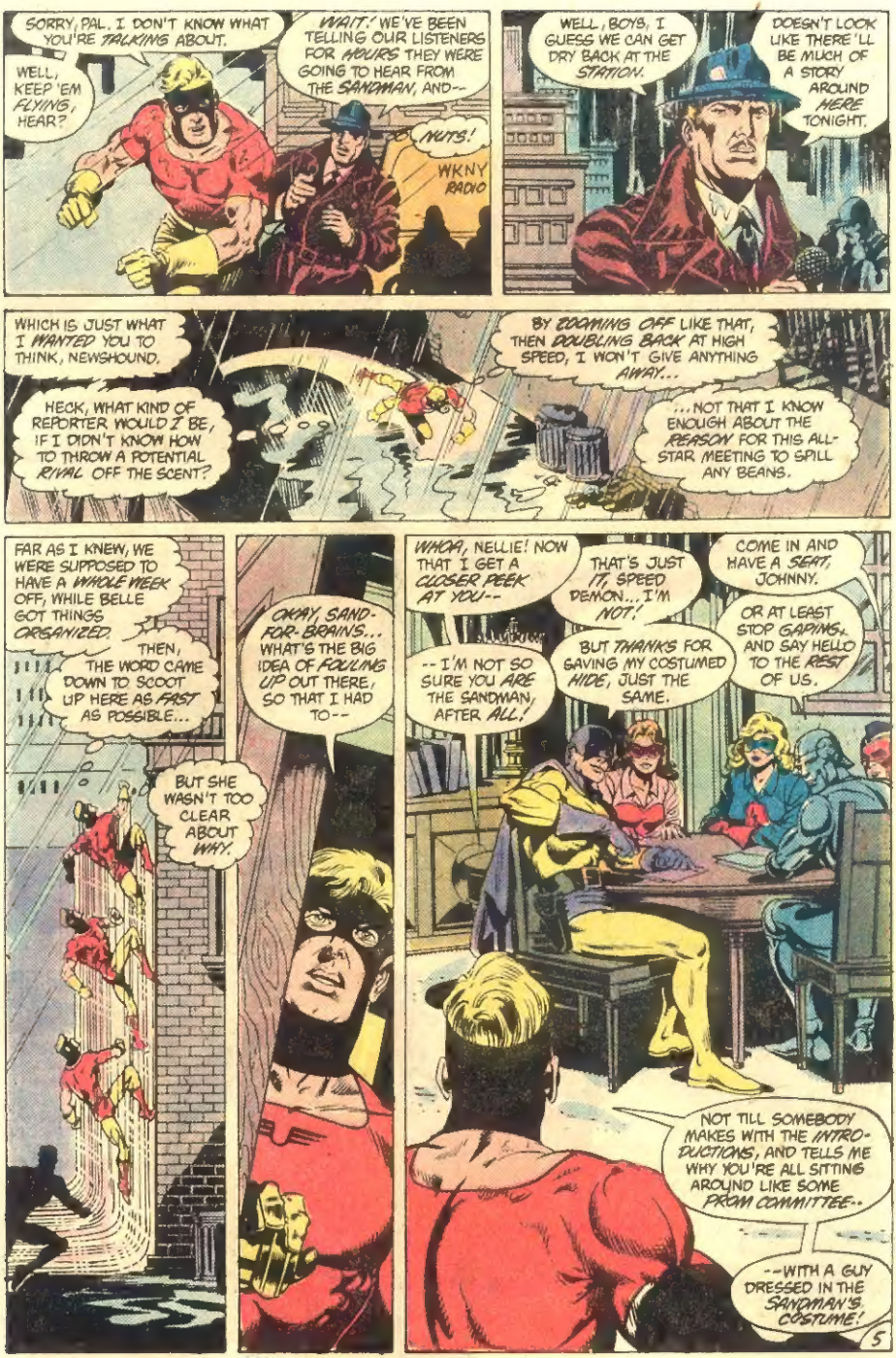
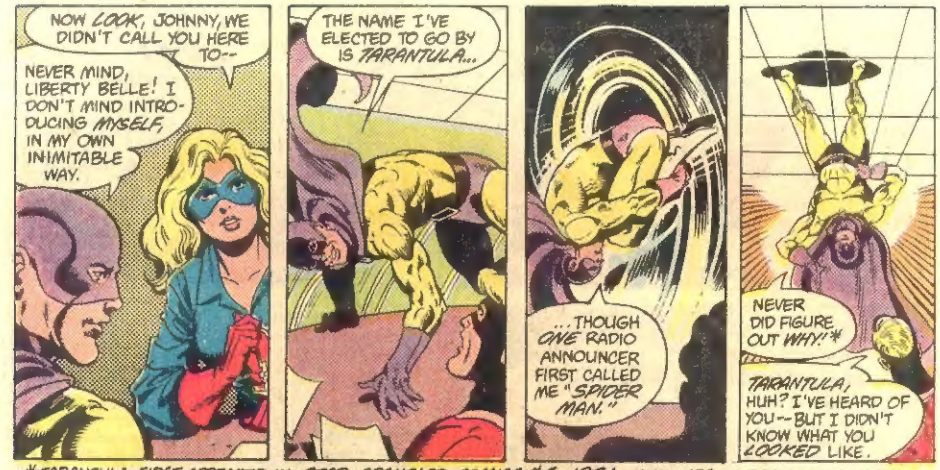
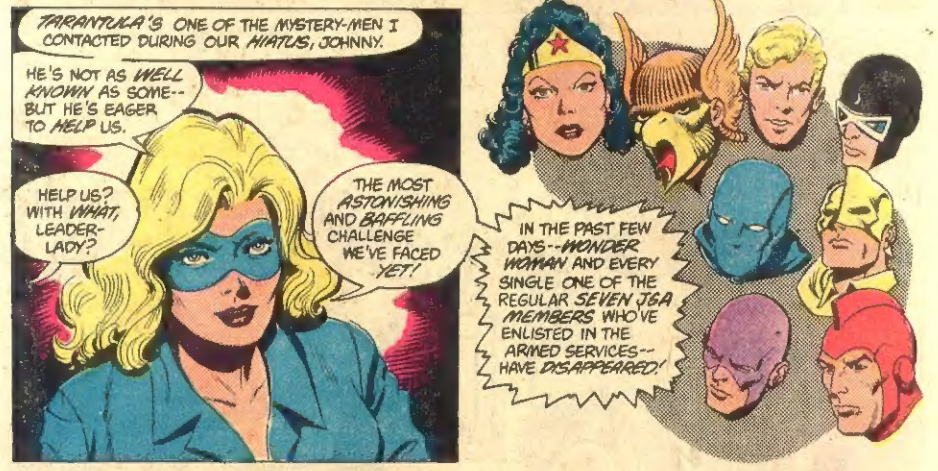

SORRY, PAL. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
WELL, KEEP 'EM FLYING, HEAR?
WAIT! WE'VE BEEN TELLING OUR LISTENERS FOR HOURS THEY WERE GOING TO HEAR FROM THE SANDMAN, AND--
NUTS!
WKNY RADIO
WELL, BOYS, I GUESS WE CAN GET DRY BACK AT THE STATION.
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE'LL BE MUCH OF A STORY AROUND HERE TONIGHT.
WHICH IS JUST WHAT I WANTED YOU TO THINK, NEWSHOUND.
HECK, WHAT KIND OF REPORTER WOULD I BE, IF I DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO THROW A POTENTIAL RIVAL OFF THE SCENT?
BY ZOOMING OFF LIKE THAT, THEN DOUBLING BACK AT HIGH SPEED, I WON'T GIVE ANYTHING AWAY...
...NOT THAT I KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE REASON FOR THIS ALL-STAR MEETING TO SPILL ANY BEANS.
FAR AS I KNEW, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO HAVE A WHOLE WEEK OFF, WHILE BELLE GOT THINGS ORGANIZED.
THEN, THE WORD CAME DOWN TO SCOOT UP HERE AS FAST AS POSSIBLE...
BUT SHE WASN'T TOO CLEAR ABOUT WHY.
OKAY, SAND-FOR-BRAINS... WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA OF FOULING UP OUT THERE, SO THAT I HAD TO--
WHOA, NELLIE! NOW THAT I GET A CLOSER PEEK AT YOU--
-- I'M NOT SO SURE YOU ARE THE SANDMAN, AFTER ALL!
THAT'S JUST IT, SPEED DEMON... I'M NOT!
BUT THANKS FOR SAVING MY COSTUMED HIDE, JUST THE SAME.
COME IN AND HAVE A SEAT, JOHNNY.
OR AT LEAST STOP GAPING, AND SAY HELLO TO THE REST OF US.
NOT TILL SOMEBODY MAKES WITH THE INTRODUCTIONS, AND TELLS ME WHY YOU'RE ALL SITTING AROUND LIKE SOME PROM COMMITTEE..
--WITH A GUY DRESSED IN THE SANDMAN'S COSTUME!
5



*TARANTULA FIRST APPEARED IN *STAR-SPANGLED COMICS #1*, 1941... AND YES, A RADIO ANNOUNCER *DID* ACTUALLY CALL HIM "SPIDER MAN." WOULD WE LIE TO YOU? -- LEN.



WHAT DO YOU MEAN "WE," SPIDER-BREATH?
ALL I SEE IS A GUY IN AN OUTFIT THAT MAKES ME WONDER IF HE DOESN'T KNOW MORE ABOUT THE SANDMAN THAN HE LETS ON!
I NEVER SAID I KNEW NOTHING OF THE SANDMAN--JUST NOT HIS WHEREABOUTS! I--
JOHNNY, YOU REALLY ARE INCORRIGIBLE SOMETIMES, YOU KNOW THAT?
FIREBRAND'S RIGHT! WE'VE ALREADY CHECKED OUT TARANTULA'S CRIME-FIGHTING CREDENTIALS--
--AND HE DOESN'T OWE ANYBODY IN THIS ROOM ANY MORE EXPLANATIONS THAN HE CARES TO GIVE.
MAYBE I'LL VOLUNTEER, JUST THE SAME, COMMANDER STEEL--SINCE I'M THE NEW KID ON THE BLOCK, AND WE HAVE TO WAIT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S CALL ANYWAY.
MY REAL NAME IS JONATHAN LAW, MYSTERY-STORY WRITER...
...YES, THE SAME SCRIBBLER, I'M AFRAID, WHO PLEADS GUILTY TO WRITING THE DOZEN MASTERMINDS, WEB OF HATE, AND A FEW OTHER BEST-SELLING WHODUNITS.
AND NO, IT'S NOT JUST A COINCIDENCE THAT MY COSTUME AND THE SANDMAN'S ARE SO NEARLY IDENTICAL... THOUGH WHEN I STARTED OUT, HE WAS STILL SPORTING JUST GASMASK, CAPE, AND A COUPLE OF SPECIAL WEAPONS.
"MY SO-CALLED CRIME-BUSTING CAREER BEGAN THIS PAST SUMMER--WHEN AMERICA WAS STILL OFFICIALLY NEUTRAL IN THIS WAR, AND THE NAZIS HAD JUST SHOWN HOW MUCH THEIR PEACE TREATY WITH THE U.S.S.R. MEANT TO THEM.
"NOT EXACTLY THE HAPPIEST OF TIMES FOR ANYBODY THIS SIDE OF DER FÜHRER HIMSELF...
EARLY BIRD EXTRA
JUNE 22, 1941
NAZIS INVADE RUSSIA
GREATEST ASSAULT IN MILITARY HISTORY BEGINS ALONG 3,000 MILE FRONT
CHURCHILL: "ANY MAN OR STATE WHO FIGHTS AGAINST NAZISM WILL HAVE OUR AID."
WEATHER
CHAPTER TWO
THE SECRET ORIGIN OF TARANTULA!
7

"...BUT THIS IS ONE TYPEWRITER-JOCKEY WHO WAS GLAD THAT RESEARCH FOR MY NEXT BOOK--ON WHAT THE PAPERS WERE CALLING THE 'MYSTERY-MAN PHENOMENON'--PUT ME IN TOUCH WITH MISS EVAN BELMONT!
I'M PLEASED YOU LIKE MY LITTLE SKETCH, MR. LAW.
TOO BAD THE SANDMAN--THE MAN YOU ASKED ME HERE TO TALK ABOUT--DOESN'T FEEL LIKE WEARING THE COSTUME I CREATED FOR HIM.
SOME GUYS ARE FUNNY THAT WAY, MISS BELMONT.
THEY DON'T LIKE A WOMAN TO PICK OUT THEIR CLOTHES, LET ALONE DESIGN THEM.
IT'S NOT ESO-- BUT HE'S REALLY COLOR BLIND, YOU KNOW.
HOW ELSE COULD HE WEAR A GREEN BUSINESS SUIT WITH A PURPLE CAPE, ORANGE HAT, AND BLUE-AND-YELLOW GASMASK?
HMMM... I SUSPECT YOU'RE PULLING MY LEG WITH THAT "COLOR BLIND" BIT...
STILL, I APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING ME THIS INTERVIEW AT ALL.
HOW COULD I RESIST CONTRIBUTING TO A BOOK ON THESE MASKED HEROES WHO ARE POPPING UP ALL OVER?
ESPECIALLY SINCE THE SANDMAN WAS ONE OF THE FIRST.. RIGHT ON THE HEELS OF THE BATMAN, A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK.
GLAD YOU BELIEVED ME WHEN I TOLD YOU, I'VE NO INTEREST IN TRYING TO LEARN ANY SECRETS YOU CAN'T REVEAL--LET ALONE THE SANDMAN'S TRUE IDENTITY.
BUT IT'S COMMON KNOWLEDGE YOU'VE BEEN INVOLVED WITH HIM ON SEVERAL--SHALL WE SAY--CAPERS...
...AS WAS THAT PLAYBOY FRIEND OF YOURS, WESLEY DODD.
TOO BAD I WASN'T ABLE TO REACH DODD FOR AN APPOINTMENT.
I'M AFRAID WEB TRAVELS A LOT--ONE OF THE CURSES OF BEING BORN WEALTHY, I SUPPOSE.
ANYWAY, THANKS FOR YOUR TIME... AND HERE'S YOUR SKETCH.
WHY DON'T YOU KEEP IT, MR. LAW?
CALL IT JUST A HUNCH... BUT I SUSPECT YOU'LL MAKE BETTER USE OF IT THAN THE SANDMAN EVER WILL.
GOOD-BYE... AND CALL ME AGAIN, IF I CAN HELP.
I'D CALL HER TOMORROW, AS A MATTER OF FACT... FOR A DATE...
...IF I WEREN'T POSITIVE SHE'S THE SANDMAN'S GIRLFRIEND!
8
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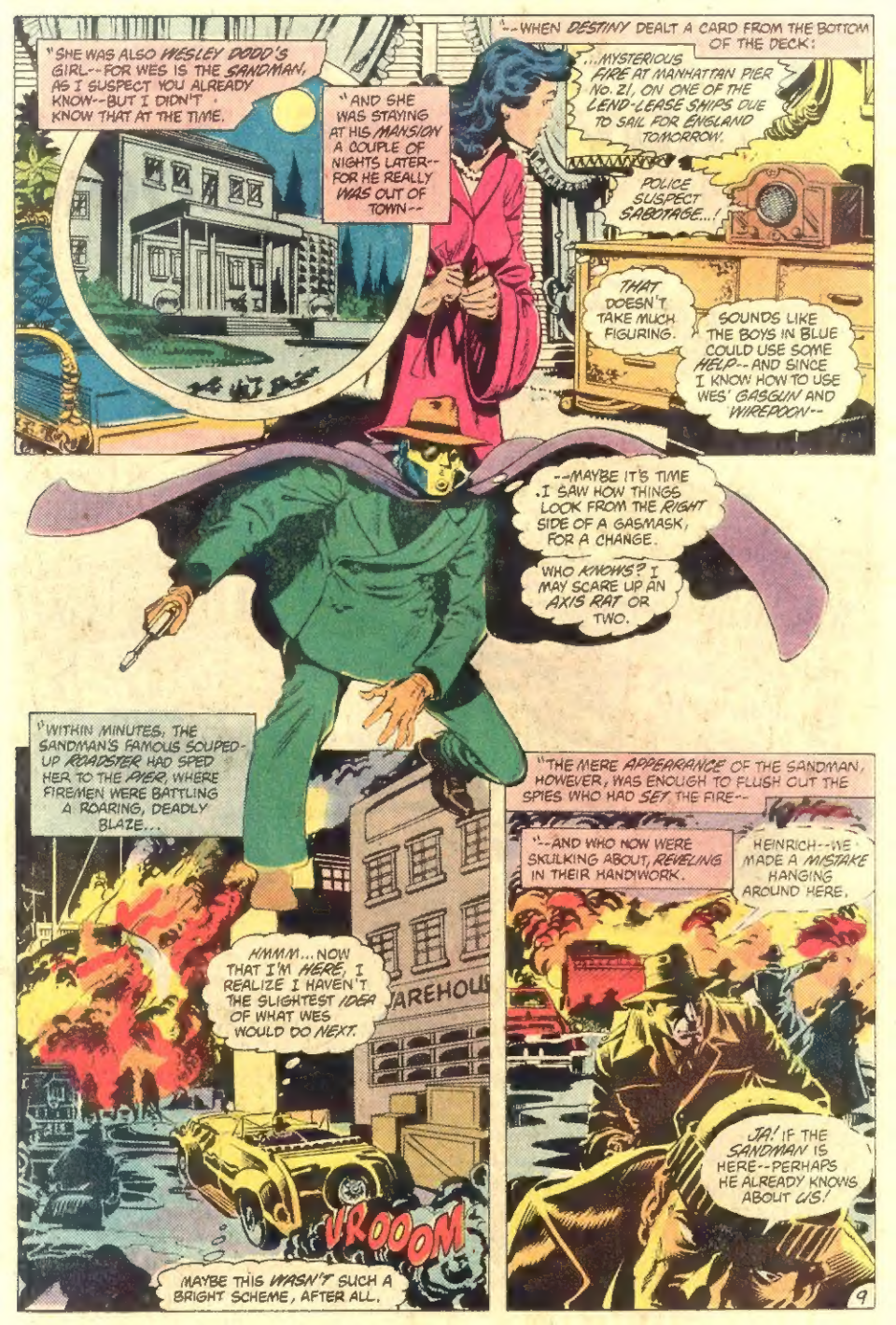
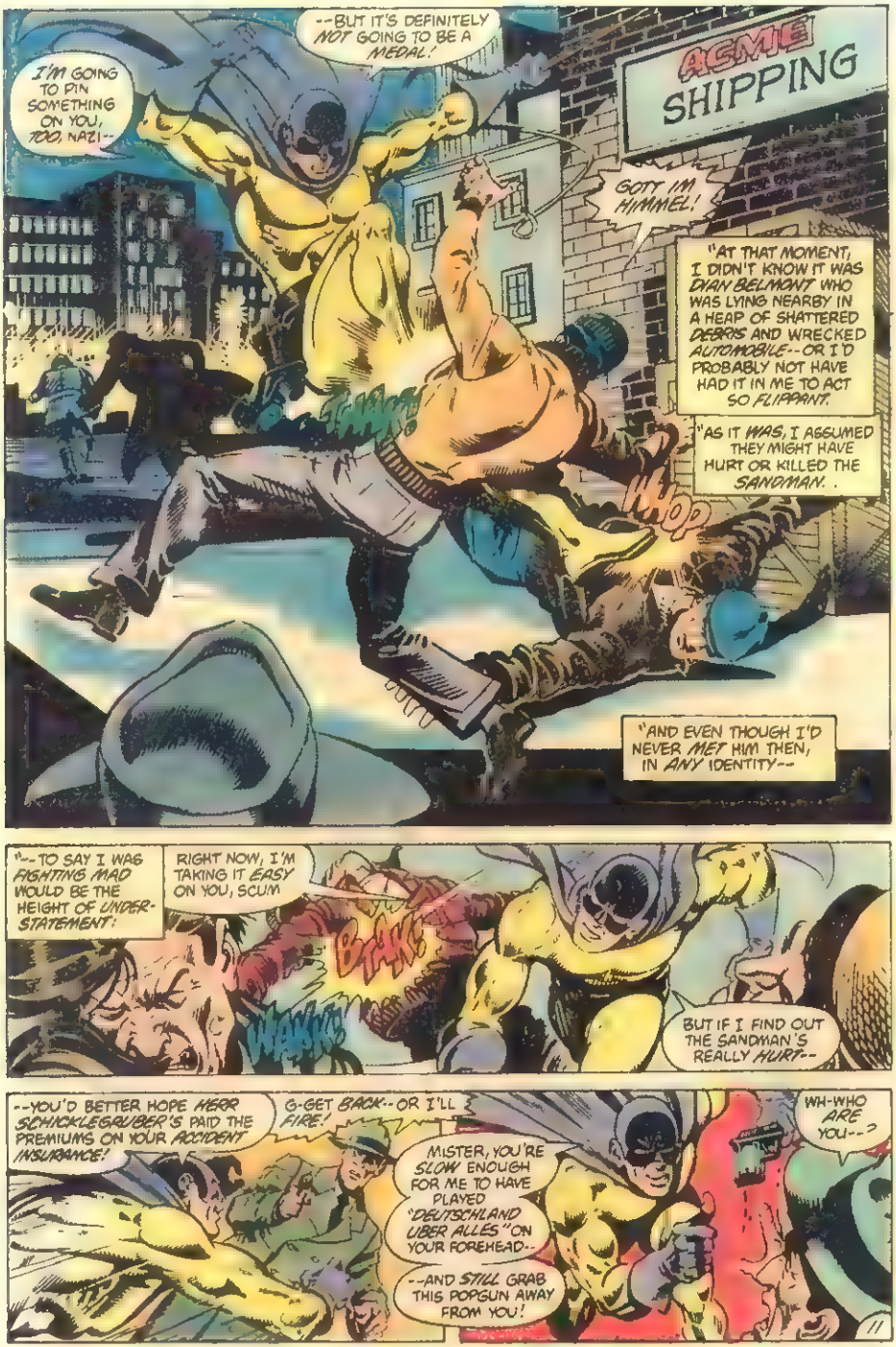
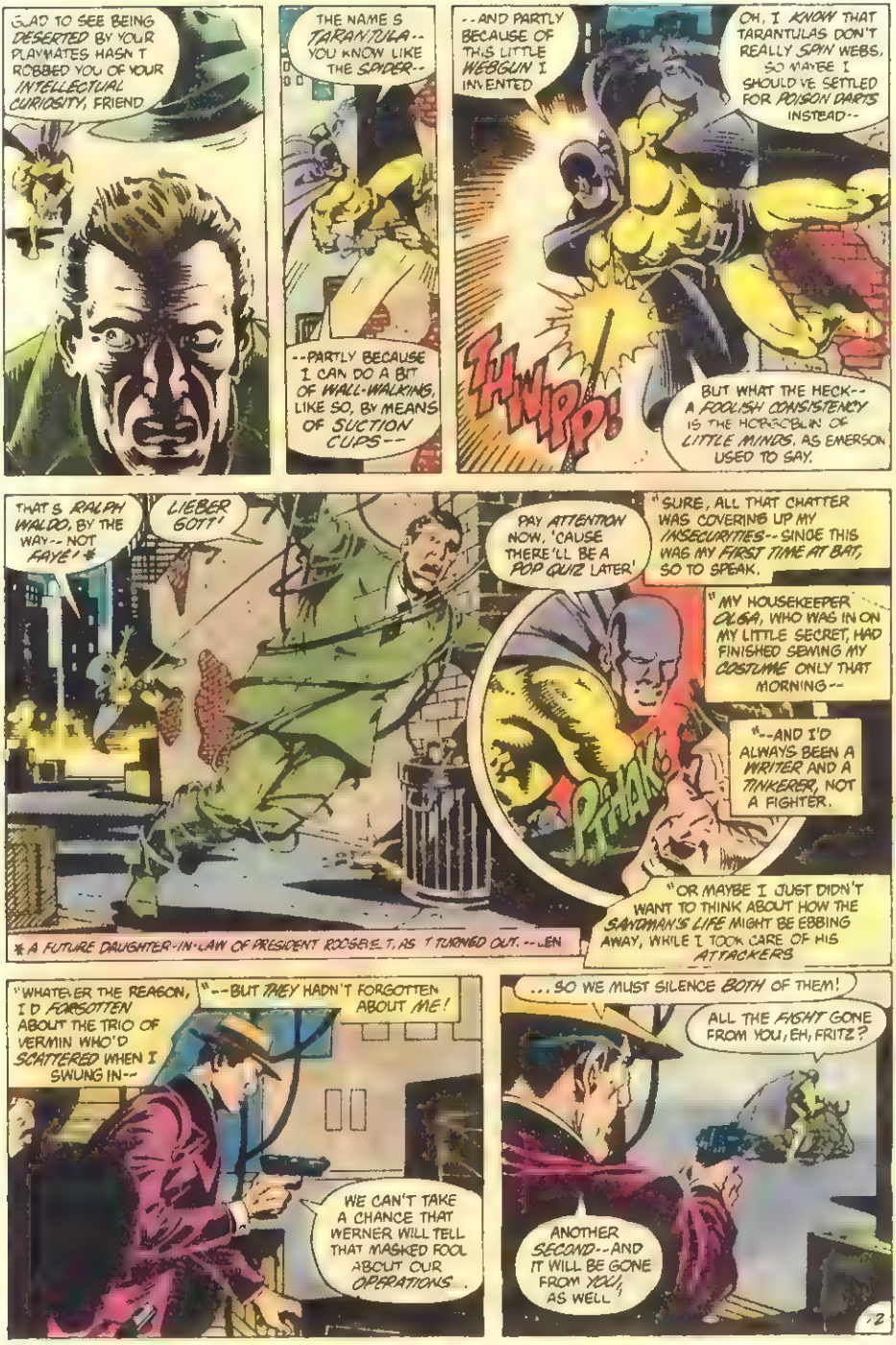
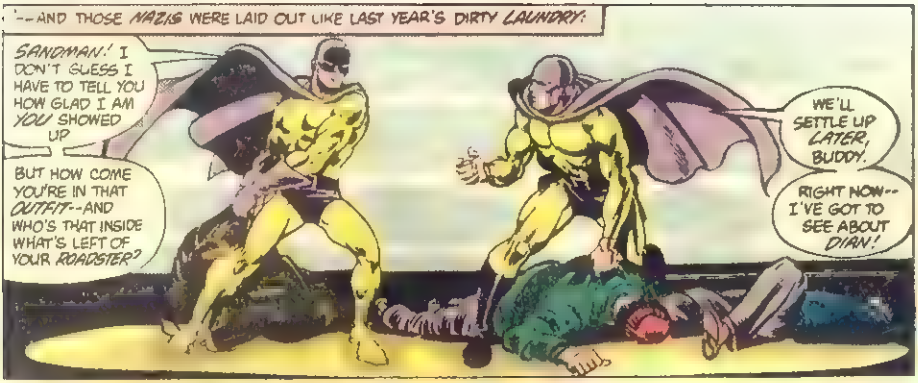

"SHE WAS ALSO WESLEY DODD'S GIRL--FOR WES IS THE SANDMAN, AS I SUSPECT YOU ALREADY KNOW--BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THAT AT THE TIME.
"AND SHE WAS STAYING AT HIS MANSION A COUPLE OF NIGHTS LATER--FOR HE REALLY WAS OUT OF TOWN--
"--WHEN DESTINY DEALT A CARD FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE DECK:
...MYSTERIOUS FIRE AT MANHATTAN PIER NO. 21, ON ONE OF THE LEND-LEASE SHIPS DUE TO SAIL FOR ENGLAND TOMORROW.
POLICE SUSPECT SABOTAGE...!
THAT DOESN'T TAKE MUCH FIGURING.
SOUNDS LIKE THE BOYS IN BLUE COULD USE SOME HELP--AND SINCE I KNOW HOW TO USE WES' GASGUN AND WIREPOON--
--MAYBE IT'S TIME I SAW HOW THINGS LOOK FROM THE RIGHT SIDE OF A GASMASK, FOR A CHANGE.
WHO KNOWS? I MAY SCARE UP AN AXIS RAT OR TWO.
"WITHIN MINUTES, THE SANDMAN'S FAMOUS SOUPED-UP ROADSTER HAD SPED HER TO THE PIER, WHERE FIREMEN WERE BATTLING A ROARING, DEADLY BLAZE...
HMMM...NOW THAT I'M HERE, I REALIZE I HAVEN'T THE SLIGHTEST IDEA OF WHAT WES WOULD DO NEXT.
VROOOM
MAYBE THIS WASN'T SUCH A BRIGHT SCHEME, AFTER ALL.
"THE MERE APPEARANCE OF THE SANDMAN, HOWEVER, WAS ENOUGH TO FLUSH OUT THE SPIES WHO HAD SET THE FIRE--
"--AND WHO NOW WERE SKULKING ABOUT, REVELING IN THEIR HANDIWORK.
HEINRICH--WE MADE A MISTAKE HANGING AROUND HERE.
JA! IF THE SANDMAN IS HERE--PERHAPS HE ALREADY KNOWS ABOUT US!
9

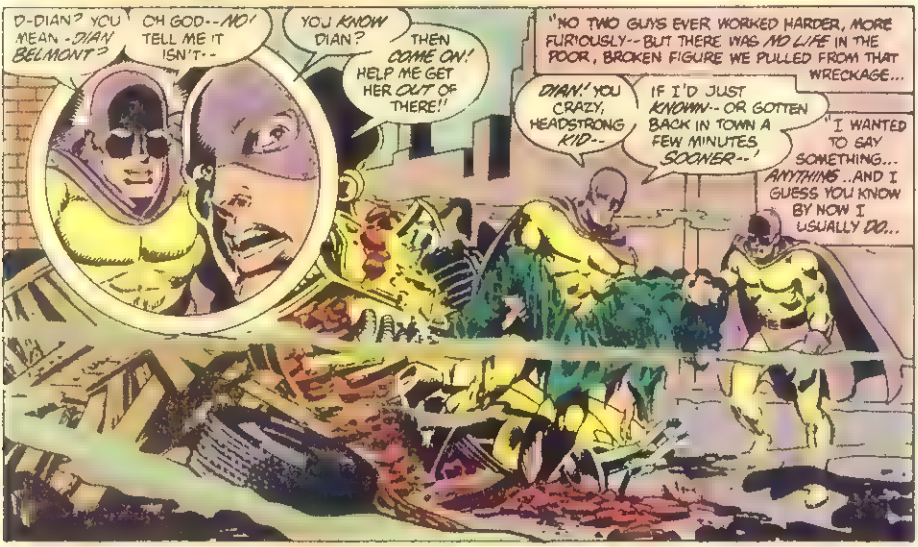
UNFORTUNATELY AT THAT VERY MOMENT DIAN SPOTTED THEM
PROBABLY JUST A COUPLE OF RUBBERNECKERS, NO MORE NAZI THAN CHARLIE CHAPLIN--
BUT WHEN YOUR COUNTRY'S FIGHTING A VIRTUAL UNDECLARED NAVAL WAR IN THE ATLANTIC, IT DOESN'T PAY TO TAKE THE USUAL AMOUNT OF CHANCES.
HEY! I STRUCK PAYDIRT! ONE OF THEM'S DRAWING A PISTOL!
MACH SCHNELL, YOU FOUR-- SCATTER!
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THAT MASKED MEDDLER!
"I GUESS WE'LL NEVER KNOW IF THAT SECOND SHOOTER WAS A CRACK MARKSMAN--
BLAMM
--OR JUST THE LUCKIEST SHOT IN AN INCREASINGLY UNLUCKY WORLD
POW!!!
"DIAN BELMONT'S LUCK, ANYWAY-- HAD RUN OUT!
DID YOU SEE THAT?
I KILLED THE SANDMAN!
DER FUHRER WILL PIN A MEDAL ON ME PERSONALLY FOR THIS!
KRAASH!


--BUT IT'S DEFINITELY NOT GOING TO BE A MEDAL!
I'M GOING TO PIN SOMETHING ON YOU, TOO, NAZI--
ACME SHIPPING
GOTT IM HIMMEL!
"AT THAT MOMENT, I DIDN'T KNOW IT WAS DIAN BELMONT WHO WAS LYING NEARBY IN A HEAP OF SHATTERED DEBRIS AND WRECKED AUTOMOBILE--OR I'D PROBABLY NOT HAVE HAD IT IN ME TO ACT SO FLIPPANT.
"AS IT WAS, I ASSUMED THEY MIGHT HAVE HURT OR KILLED THE SANDMAN. .
WHOP
"AND EVEN THOUGH I'D NEVER MET HIM THEN, IN ANY IDENTITY--
"--TO SAY I WAS FIGHTING MAD WOULD BE THE HEIGHT OF UNDER-STATEMENT.
RIGHT NOW, I'M TAKING IT EASY ON YOU, SCUM
BAM!
WHAM!
BUT IF I FIND OUT THE SANDMAN'S REALLY HURT--
--YOU'D BETTER HOPE HERR SCHICKLEGRUBER'S PAID THE PREMIUMS ON YOUR ACCIDENT INSURANCE!
G-GET BACK--OR I'LL FIRE!
MISTER, YOU'RE SLOW ENOUGH FOR ME TO HAVE PLAYED "DEUTSCHLAND UBER ALLES" ON YOUR FOREHEAD--
--AND STILL GRAB THIS POPGUN AWAY FROM YOU!
WH-WHO ARE YOU--?
11


GLAD TO SEE BEING DESERTED BY YOUR PLAYMATES HASN'T ROBBED YOU OF YOUR INTELLECTUAL CURIOSITY, FRIEND.
THE NAME'S TARANTULA--YOU KNOW LIKE THE SPIDER--
--PARTLY BECAUSE I CAN DO A BIT OF WALL-WALKING, LIKE SO, BY MEANS OF SUCTION CUPS--
--AND PARTLY BECAUSE OF THIS LITTLE WEBGUN I INVENTED
OH, I KNOW THAT TARANTULAS DON'T REALLY SPIN WEBS, SO MAYBE I SHOULD'VE SETTLED FOR POISON DARTS INSTEAD--
THWIPP!
BUT WHAT THE HECK--A FOOLISH CONSISTENCY IS THE HOBGOBLIN OF LITTLE MINDS, AS EMERSON USED TO SAY.
THAT'S RALPH WALDO, BY THE WAY--NOT FAYE! *
LIEBER GOTT!
PAY ATTENTION NOW, 'CAUSE THERE'LL BE A POP QUIZ LATER!
PTAK!
"SURE, ALL THAT CHATTER WAS COVERING UP MY INSECURITIES--SINCE THIS WAS MY FIRST TIME AT BAT, SO TO SPEAK.
"MY HOUSEKEEPER OLGA, WHO WAS IN ON MY LITTLE SECRET, HAD FINISHED SEWING MY COSTUME ONLY THAT MORNING--
"--AND I'D ALWAYS BEEN A WRITER AND A TINKERER, NOT A FIGHTER.
"OR MAYBE I JUST DIDN'T WANT TO THINK ABOUT HOW THE SANDMAN'S LIFE MIGHT BE EBBING AWAY, WHILE I TOOK CARE OF HIS ATTACKERS
* A FUTURE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW OF PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT, AS IT TURNED OUT. --LEN
"WHATEVER THE REASON, I'D FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE TRIO OF VERMIN WHO'D SCATTERED WHEN I SWUNG IN--
"--BUT THEY HADN'T FORGOTTEN ABOUT ME!
WE CAN'T TAKE A CHANCE THAT WERNER WILL TELL THAT MASKED FOOL ABOUT OUR OPERATIONS.
...SO WE MUST SILENCE BOTH OF THEM!
ALL THE FIGHT GONE FROM YOU, EH, FRITZ?
ANOTHER SECOND--AND IT WILL BE GONE FROM YOU, AS WELL!
12

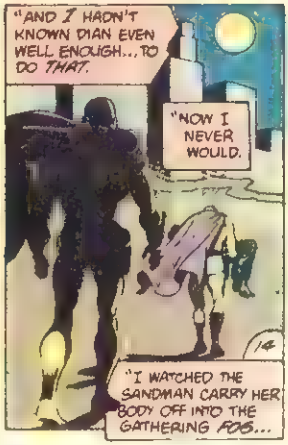
"YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT
"NO, I TAKE THAT BACK! WHAT I SHOULD SAY IS-- NOBODY WHO'S NEVER PULLED HIMSELF INTO A MASK AND A PAIR OF FANCY LEOTARDS AND RUN OFF TO FIGHT CRIME AND/OR SPIES IS LIKELY TO BELIEVE IT--
--BUT IT HAPPENED, ALL THE SAME
VAS IST DAS? ANOTHER ONE-- DRESSED JUST LIKE THE FIRST!?
FWAP!
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN ME COMING IN YOUR NIGHT-MARES, RATS
ISN'T THAT WHERE MOST PEOPLE GET THEIR FIRST GLIMPSE OF-- THE SANDMAN!?
TH-THE SANDMAN? BUT THEN-- WHO'S THAT WERNER SHOT??
"AFTER THAT SINGLE VERBAL VOLLEY, THOUGH, THE SANDMAN WAS IN A FAR LESS TALKATIVE MOOD THAN I'D BEEN.
BTOK
WOK!
"A SINGLE BLOW TO EACH OF THREE JAWS--
SOK
"AND HE LAUNCHED HIMSELF AT THOSE SABOTEURS LIKE A TRUE PROFESSIONAL.
13


'--AND THOSE NAZIS WERE LAID OUT LIKE LAST YEAR'S DIRTY LAUNDRY.
SANDMAN! I DON'T GUESS I HAVE TO TELL YOU HOW GLAD I AM YOU SHOWED UP.
BUT HOW COME YOU'RE IN THAT OUTFIT--AND WHO'S THAT INSIDE WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR ROADSTER?
WE'LL SETTLE UP LATER, BUDDY.
RIGHT NOW--I'VE GOT TO SEE ABOUT DIAN!


D-DIAN? YOU MEAN--DIAN BELMONT?
OH GOD--NO! TELL ME IT ISN'T--
YOU KNOW DIAN?
THEN COME ON! HELP ME GET HER OUT OF THERE!!
"NO TWO GUYS EVER WORKED HARDER, MORE FURIOUSLY--BUT THERE WAS NO LIFE IN THE POOR, BROKEN FIGURE WE PULLED FROM THAT WRECKAGE...
DIAN! YOU CRAZY, HEADSTRONG KID--
IF I'D JUST KNOWN--OR GOTTEN BACK IN TOWN A FEW MINUTES SOONER--'
"I WANTED TO SAY SOMETHING... ANYTHING ..AND I GUESS YOU KNOW BY NOW I USUALLY DO...

"BUT JUST AT THAT MOMENT, THERE WERE NO WORDS TO BE SPOKEN

"...ONLY TEARS TO BE SHED..


"AND I HADN'T KNOWN DIAN EVEN WELL ENOUGH...TO DO THAT.
"NOW I NEVER WOULD.
14
"I WATCHED THE SANDMAN CARRY HER BODY OFF INTO THE GATHERING FOG...

"I AVOIDED THE FIREMEN AND THE POLICE, SO THAT TARANTULA'S *OFFICIAL* BADGUY-BUSTING DEBUT WAS A COUPLE OF NIGHTS LATER, IN A *BROADWAY THEATRE*.

"THE NIGHT AFTER *THAT*, IN A CEMETERY ON LONG ISLAND, I HAPPENED TO BE EAVESDROPPING AS THE *SANDMAN* STOOD OVER A FRESHLY-DUG *GRAVE*.

I *LOVED* YOU, DIAN AND I'D GIVE ANYTHING IN THE WORLD IF *I* COULD'VE DIED, INSTEAD OF YOU.

MAYBE SOME DAY, WHEN I'M *OVER* YOU, JUST A LITTLE... I'LL WEAR THAT OUTFIT *YOU* WERE KILLED WEARING.

BUT JUST RIGHT NOW, IT'D *HURT* TOO MUCH.

SO I'LL KEEP WEARING THE ONE *YOU* MADE FOR ME.

I COULDN'T *DIE* FOR YOU IN IT... BUT MAYBE I CAN *LIVE* FOR YOU, INSTEAD.

SANDMAN! I--I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME, FOR INTRUDING ON YOUR *GRIEF* THIS WAY--!

LOOK, I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE TIME OR PLACE... BUT I'LL DIG UP *ANOTHER* OUTFIT, ONE OF THESE DAYS.

AND I AIM TO *WEAR* THEM... FROM NOW ON.

BUT THEY'RE *YOURS* NOW, TOO

DIAN MEANT THESE COLORS FOR *YOU*, NOT ME.

IF THE *REPORTERS* CAN'T TELL US APART--THAT'S *THEIR* LOOKOUT.

TARANTULA, ISN'T IT? ALIAS *JONATHAN LAW*, AUTHOR.

HOW--?

I READ IN DIAN'S *DIARY* HOW SHE'D GIVEN HER *SKETCH* TO YOU.

GUESSING THE REST WAS EASY.

BY THE WAY, MY REAL NAME'S DODD... *WESLEY DODD*, IF YOU HADN'T GUESSED

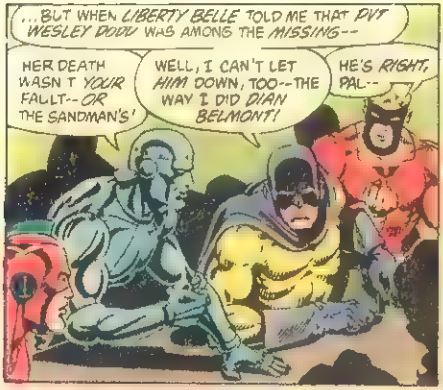
I *HAD*...BUT THANKS FOR *TRUSTING* ME

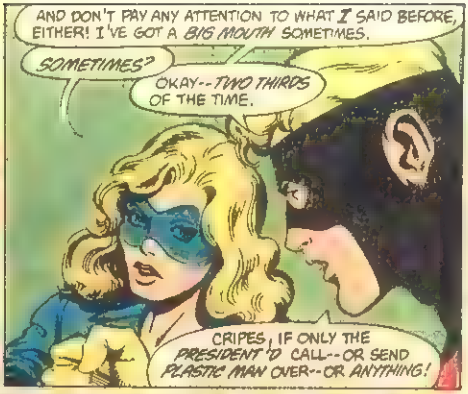
I JUST HOPE WE MEET *AGAIN* ONE OF THESE DAYS..!

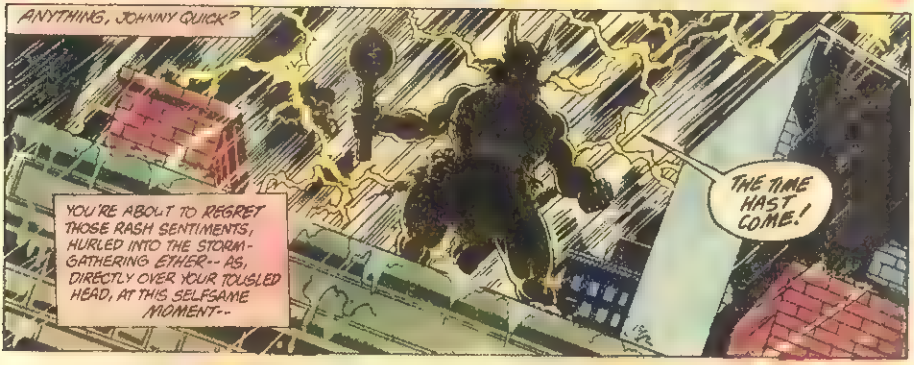
BUT WE NEVER *HAVE*, THIS PAST HALF YEAR... DURING WHICH I LEARNED WEB *REVAMPED* HIS COSTUME A BIT, DOFFING THE *CAPE*, AMONG OTHER THINGS...

AND ACQUIRING A KID PARTNER, *SANDY HAWKINS*, WHO'S AN ORPHANED *NEPHEW* OF DIAN'S.

ME, I JUST KEEP *MUDDLING THROUGH*, AS THE BRITISH SAY. FIGHTING BACK THE *MEMORIES*...


...BUT WHEN LIBERTY BELLE TOLD ME THAT DVT WESLEY DODD WAS AMONG THE MISSING--
HER DEATH WASN'T YOUR FAULT--OR THE SANDMAN'S!
WELL, I CAN'T LET HIM DOWN, TOO--THE WAY I DID DIAN BELMONT!
HE'S RIGHT, PAL--


AND DON'T PAY ANY ATTENTION TO WHAT I SAID BEFORE, EITHER! I'VE GOT A BIG MOUTH SOMETIMES.
SOMETIMES?
OKAY--TWO THIRDS OF THE TIME.
CRIPES, IF ONLY THE PRESIDENT'D CALL--OR SEND PLASTIC MAN OVER--OR ANYTHING!

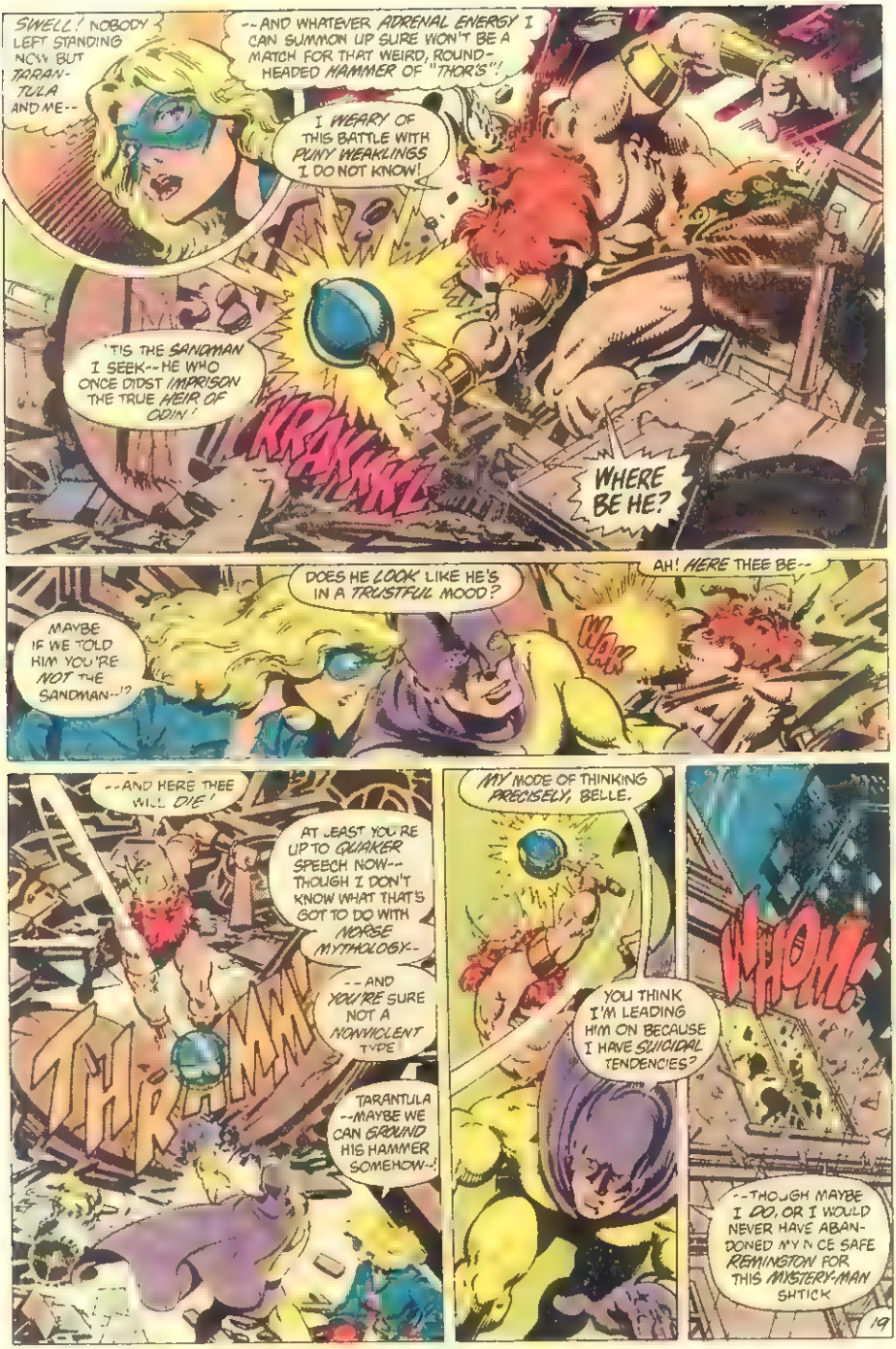

ANYTHING, JOHNNY QUICK?
YOU'RE ABOUT TO REGRET THOSE RASH SENTIMENTS, HURLED INTO THE STORM-GATHERING ETHER--AS, DIRECTLY OVER YOUR TOUSLED HEAD, AT THIS SELFSAME MOMENT--
THE TIME HAST COME!

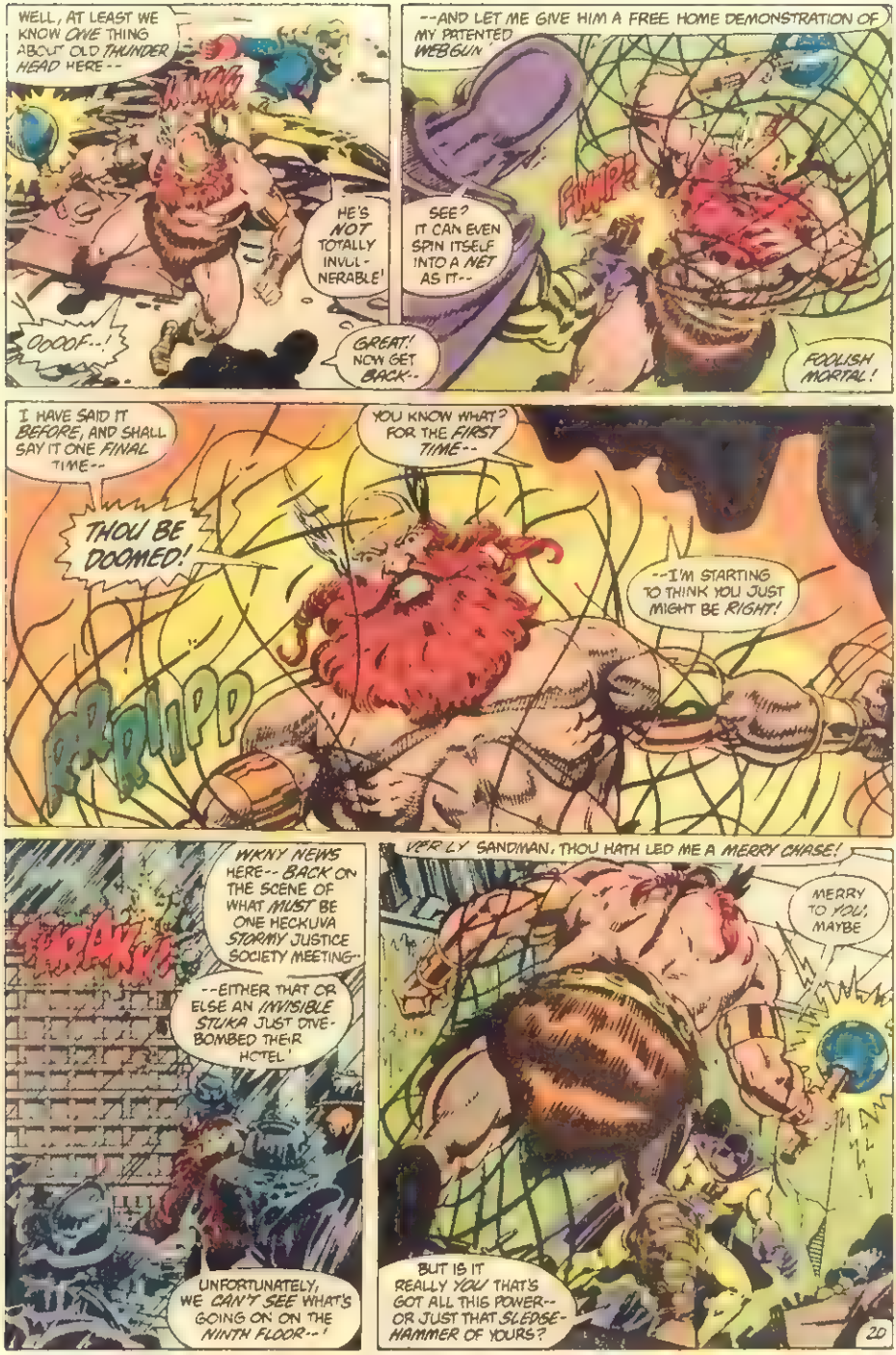
NOW, LET DEAFENING THUNDER ROLL--LET FORKED LIGHTNING WREATH THE VERY HEAVENS IN A CROWN OF LIVING FIRE!
FOR, THIS NIGHT, VENGEANCE MUST BELONG TO THOR, SON OF ODIN--

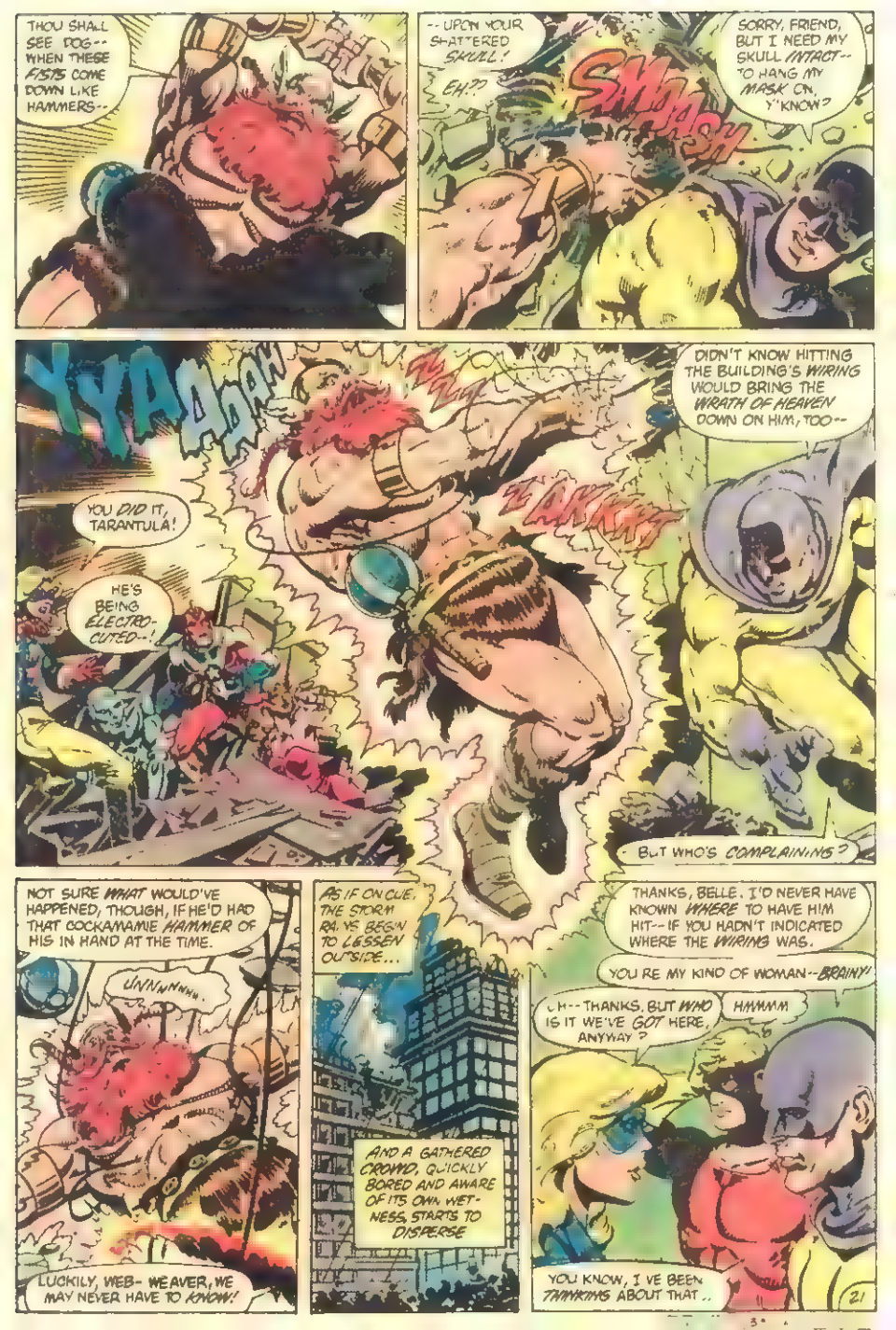
AKKKLI
--WHOM THE MEDDLESOME MORTAL CALLED THE SANDMAN DIDST WRONGLY CALL--THE VILLAIN FROM VALHALLA!
16

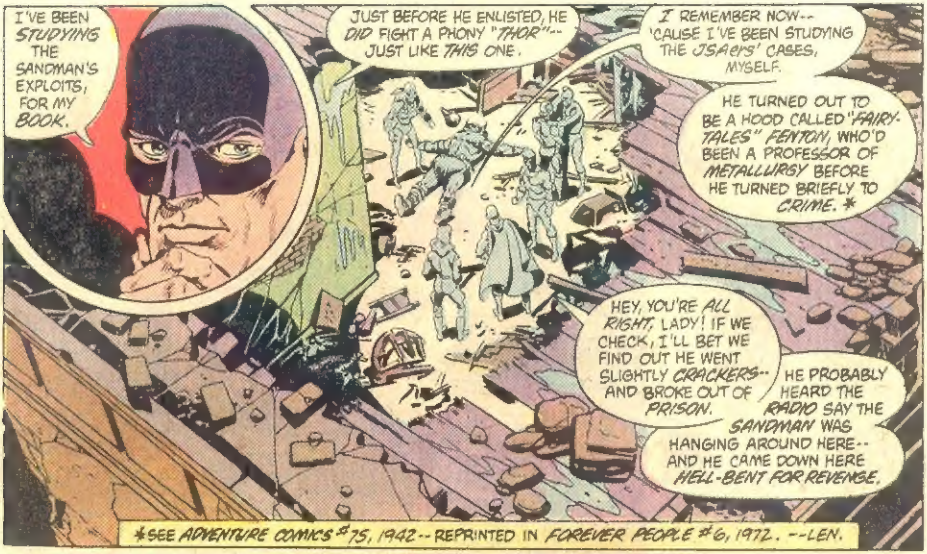
THIS NIGHT--THE GOD OF THUNDER SHALL HAST HIS REVENGE UPON THE SANDMAN--
--AYE, AND UPON ALL WHO FOOLISHLY DOST STAND BESIDE HIM!
WHOEVER HE IS--WATCH YOURSELVES! HE LOOKS MAD!
WHO THE DEVIL--?
NOT A BAD GUESS, BRANDY--FROM THE LOOKS OF THAT CREEP!
--IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD!
SMASH!
"MAD," AM I? THOU DOTH CALL THE OFFSPRING OF ODIN "MAD"?
AH! I DO SEE THE SANDMAN--MOST PERFIDIOUS OF ALL MINE FOES!
GET BACK, TARANTULA! THIS IS OUR FIGHT
NO! IT'S MINE! IF THIS OVER-MUSCLED ODDBALL IS AFTER THE SANDMAN, HE'S AFTER ME.
COME AHEAD, PIG-TAILS! I PRESUME YOU DIDN'T BRING THAT MALLET ALONG JUST TO PLAY CROQUET WITH
AYE, MOST SURELY NOT!

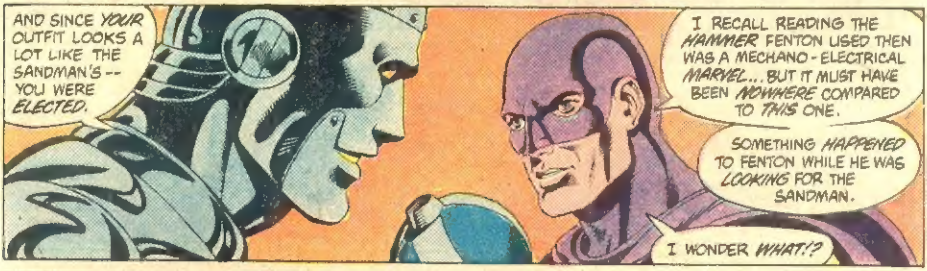
I HAVE BROUGHT IT--TO KILL THOU!
ARE YOU KIDDING? I DON'T KNOW WHAT BOWDLERIZED VERSION OF SHAKESPEARE OR THE KING JAMES BIBLE YOU GOT THAT BAD ELIZABETHAN ENGLISH FROM, BUT--
LIAR! I BE THOR!
YETH, THAT'S WHAT THEY ALL THAY!
ANYWAY, AS I WAS SAYING--"THOU" IS THE SUBJECTIVE FORM, NOT THE OBJECTIVE, AND--HEY! THAT WAS CLOSE!
YOU MUST HAVE A LOT OF FLASHLIGHT BATTERIES INSIDE THAT THING--TO GIVE OFF THOSE SPARKS--
WAP!
THRAK!
--NEVER MIND HOW IT DEMOLISHES CEILINGS AND WALLS!
THAT CLOWN'S TRYING TO SMASH TARANTULA LIKE A BUG, AND HE--
HOLY COW! HOW'D HE DO THAT??
THE HAMMER RETURNED TO HIS HAND--JUST LIKE THE REAL THOR'S!
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
THE "REAL" THOR, BELLE?
WE DO--AND WE'LL FIND OUT WHO THIS GUY REALLY IS--
--AFTER THE TITANIUM TWINS BRING HIM DOWN, RIGHT, STEEL?
VERILY, I DO SAY THEE--
WRONG!
WHUMP!
MAYBE I CAN--OWW!
THAT HAMMER SWUNG AROUND EVEN FASTER THAN I COULD RUN!
BLACKING OUT--!
ARRG
TAK!
AND NOW A LOWLY FEMALE DOST HURL FIRE AGAINST MINE LIGHTNINGS?
BOPP
OHHH--!
TRULY, 'TIS INSULT BEYOND ALL MEASURE!
18


SWELL! NOBODY LEFT STANDING NOW BUT TARANTULA AND ME--
--AND WHATEVER ADRENAL ENERGY I CAN SUMMON UP SURE WON'T BE A MATCH FOR THAT WEIRD, ROUND-HEADED HAMMER OF "THOR'S"!
I WEARY OF THIS BATTLE WITH PUNY WEAKLINGS I DO NOT KNOW!
'TIS THE SANDMAN I SEEK--HE WHO ONCE DIDST IMPRISON THE TRUE HEIR OF ODIN!
KRAKKKL
WHERE BE HE?
DOES HE LOOK LIKE HE'S IN A TRUSTFUL MOOD?
AH! HERE THEE BE--
WAK
MAYBE IF WE TOLD HIM YOU'RE NOT THE SANDMAN--!?
--AND HERE THEE WILL DIE!
AT LEAST YOU'RE UP TO QUAKER SPEECH NOW--THOUGH I DON'T KNOW WHAT THAT'S GOT TO DO WITH NORSE MYTHOLOGY--
--AND YOU'RE SURE NOT A NONVIOLENT TYPE
TARANTULA --MAYBE WE CAN GROUND HIS HAMMER SOMEHOW--!
THRAMM
MY MODE OF THINKING PRECISELY, BELLE.
YOU THINK I'M LEADING HIM ON BECAUSE I HAVE SUICIDAL TENDENCIES?
WHOM
--THOUGH MAYBE I DO, OR I WOULD NEVER HAVE ABANDONED MY N CE SAFE REMINGTON FOR THIS MYSTERY-MAN SHTICK
19


WELL, AT LEAST WE KNOW ONE THING ABOUT OLD THUNDER HEAD HERE--
HE'S NOT TOTALLY INVUL-NERABLE!
OOOOF--!
GREAT! NOW GET BACK--
--AND LET ME GIVE HIM A FREE HOME DEMONSTRATION OF MY PATENTED WEB GUN!
SEE? IT CAN EVEN SPIN ITSELF INTO A NET AS IT--
FOOLISH MORTAL!
I HAVE SAID IT BEFORE, AND SHALL SAY IT ONE FINAL TIME--
THOU BE DOOMED!
YOU KNOW WHAT? FOR THE FIRST TIME--
--I'M STARTING TO THINK YOU JUST MIGHT BE RIGHT!
WKNY NEWS HERE-- BACK ON THE SCENE OF WHAT MUST BE ONE HECKUVA STORMY JUSTICE SOCIETY MEETING--
--EITHER THAT OR ELSE AN INVISIBLE STUKA JUST DIVE-BOMBED THEIR HOTEL!
UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T SEE WHAT'S GOING ON ON THE NINTH FLOOR--!
VERILY SANDMAN, THOU HATH LED ME A MERRY CHASE!
MERRY TO YOU, MAYBE
BUT IS IT REALLY YOU THAT'S GOT ALL THIS POWER-- OR JUST THAT SLEDGE-HAMMER OF YOURS?


THOU SHALL SEE DOG-- WHEN THESE FISTS COME DOWN LIKE HAMMERS--
--UPON YOUR SHATTERED SKULL!
EH??
SMAASH
SORRY, FRIEND, BUT I NEED MY SKULL INTACT-- TO HANG MY MASK ON, Y'KNOW?
KYAAAH
ZAKKK
DIDN'T KNOW HITTING THE BUILDING'S WIRING WOULD BRING THE WRATH OF HEAVEN DOWN ON HIM, TOO--
YOU DID IT, TARANTULA!
HE'S BEING ELECTRO-CUTED--!
BUT WHO'S COMPLAINING?
NOT SURE WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED, THOUGH, IF HE'D HAD THAT COCKAMAMIE HAMMER OF HIS IN HAND AT THE TIME.
UNNNNNNN.
LUCKILY, WEB-WEAVER, WE MAY NEVER HAVE TO KNOW!
AS IF ON CUE, THE STORM RAYS BEGIN TO LESSEN OUTSIDE...
AND A GATHERED CROWD, QUICKLY BORED AND AWARE OF ITS OWN WETNESS, STARTS TO DISPERSE
THANKS, BELLE. I'D NEVER HAVE KNOWN WHERE TO HAVE HIM HIT-- IF YOU HADN'T INDICATED WHERE THE WIRING WAS.
YOU'RE MY KIND OF WOMAN--BRAINY!
UH-- THANKS. BUT WHO IS IT WE'VE GOT HERE, ANYWAY?
HMMMM
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT..
21


I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE SANDMAN'S EXPLOITS, FOR MY BOOK.
JUST BEFORE HE ENLISTED, HE DID FIGHT A PHONY "THOR"-- JUST LIKE THIS ONE.
I REMEMBER NOW-- 'CAUSE I'VE BEEN STUDYING THE JSAers' CASES, MYSELF.
HE TURNED OUT TO BE A HOOD CALLED "FAIRY-TALES" FENTON, WHO'D BEEN A PROFESSOR OF METALLURGY BEFORE HE TURNED BRIEFLY TO CRIME. *
HEY, YOU'RE ALL RIGHT, LADY! IF WE CHECK, I'LL BET WE FIND OUT HE WENT SLIGHTLY CRACKERS-- AND BROKE OUT OF PRISON.
HE PROBABLY HEARD THE RADIO SAY THE SANDMAN WAS HANGING AROUND HERE-- AND HE CAME DOWN HERE HELL-BENT FOR REVENGE.
*SEE ADVENTURE COMICS #75, 1942-- REPRINTED IN FOREVER PEOPLE #6, 1972. --LEN.


AND SINCE YOUR OUTFIT LOOKS A LOT LIKE THE SANDMAN'S -- YOU WERE ELECTED.
I RECALL READING THE HAMMER FENTON USED THEN WAS A MECHANO-ELECTRICAL MARVEL... BUT IT MUST HAVE BEEN NOWHERE COMPARED TO THIS ONE.
SOMETHING HAPPENED TO FENTON WHILE HE WAS LOOKING FOR THE SANDMAN.
I WONDER WHAT!?

AND WE MAY JUST FIND OUT. *
THIS MAN'S STILL ALIVE!
AFTER TAKING ENOUGH HIGH VOLTAGE TO KILL AN ELEPHANT?
SOMETHING MUST HAVE CHANGED HIM!
*THOUGH NOT FOR A FEW ISSUES. --LEN.

THIS HAMMER DOESN'T LOOK TO HAVE ANY MOVABLE PARTS-- SO IT'S PROBABLY NOT THE ONE FENTON USED BEFORE.
WOULDN'T IT BE FUNNY-- IF THIS REALLY IS THE HAMMER OF THE NORSE THUNDER GOD?

HILARIOUS. JUST FIND OUT IF IT CAN UNDO ALL THE DAMAGE IT CAUSED, WILLYA?
RIGHT. THE JUSTICE SOCIETY BOYS ARE GOING TO BE UNHAPPY ENOUGH, WHEN THEY SEE WHAT'S BECOME OF THEIR HEADQUARTERS.
HEY, JSA--ALL-STARS-- WHOEVER--!
THAT REMINDS ME-- WEREN'T WE SUPPOSED TO GET A CALL FROM--?

IT'S ME-- BAILEY, FROM WKNY!
YOU CAN BELIEVE THIS OR NOT-- BUT I JUST GOT A CALL FOR YOU GUYS, FROM SOMEBODY WHO CLAIMS HE'S THE PRESIDENT!
SAYS HE'S BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU, BUT YOUR-- ER-- LINES WERE DOWN!
LINES, HUH? BUDDY, HE DOESN'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT.
ANY MESSAGE, FRIEND-- OR WAS HE JUST CALLING TO ASK US TO PICK UP SOME DOGFOOD FOR FALA?
Y-YOU MEAN-- IT REALLY WAS THE PRESIDENT!?
HE, UH, SAID HE HAD THE INFORMATION HE PROMISED YOU-- BUT HE'S AS PUZZLED ABOUT IT AS ANYBODY.
HE CLAIMED THERE'S A BLINKING LIGHT ON TOP OF THE TRYLON-- YOU KNOW, THAT TOWER LEFT OVER FROM THE WORLD'S FAIR THEY HAD A COUPLE OF YEARS BACK--
--AND IT'S SPELLING OUT A CHALLENGE TO THE ALL-STAR SQUADRON--
--IN MORSE CODE!
C'MON, YOU GUYS 'RE JUST RIBBING ME, RIGHT? IT WASN'T REALLY F.D.R., WAS IT?
THE RADIO REPORTER'S ONLY ANSWER...
...IS GIVEN BY THE ALL-STARS' COLORFUL BACKS:
I GUESS IT'S OCCURRED TO YOU GUYS THAT ANYBODY WHO TOOK OUT THE JSA IS LIABLE TO HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO MAKE MINCEMEAT OUT OF THE SIX OF US.
LET'S GO GET 'EM!
YOU'RE A REAL WORRY WART, YOU KNOW THAT, JOHNNY?
23
NEXT STOP-- THE 1939-40 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR GROUNDS, ON LONG ISLAND!
NOT TO MENTION-- THE EVENT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR, AS COMIC-BOOK HISTORY IS MADE!
NEXT ISSUE:
The JUSTICE SOCIETY RETURNS--
But so does the sinister cerebral known as
THE BRAIN WAVE!

ALL-STAR COMMENTS

DC COMICS, INC., 666 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10103

L-1206

THE STORY BEHIND THE STORY: Even more so than the previous two issues, this month's All-Star saga had a somewhat odd genesis we thought you might get a kick out of. Some months back, Dick Giordano (then editing BRAVE & BOLD) suggested I do a back-up story for that mag sometime, featuring—if possible—a *team-up*, in the mere seven or so pages allotted. Rising to the challenge, and because Adrian Gonzales was to be the penciler, Ye Writer plotted an off-the-wall one-shot which, though not intended as part of ALL-STAR SQUADRON itself, did have a bearing on this magazine.

I decided to deal with one of those weird little problems which arise when you try to create a giant super-hero group out of numerous heroes, most of whom were originally created for independent series. Thus was a nine-page story born which posed (and answered) the musical question, "Why did the *Sandman* of 1942 and the *Tarantula* have nearly identical costumes of yellow and purple?"

'Cause they did, you know. Tarantula, created by Mort Weisinger and Hal Sharp for STAR-SPANGLED COMICS #1, Oct. 1941, was only a couple of months old when, in ADVENTURE COMICS #69 (for Dec. '41), the Sandman—who had previously sported gasmask, green business suit, a roadster, and a girl friend named Dian Belmot—suddenly dropped all those accoutrements in between issues, and emerged with a kid sidekick named Sandy and a new outfit, complete with cape, which nearly duplicated that of Tarantula. Heck, they even both had *guns*—Sandman his trusty wire-poon, Tarantula his webgun. If Sandman took off his purple boots, he'd have been, costume-wise, a virtual dead-ringer for the original DC webslinger.

Romanticist that I am, I decided there had to be a story there somewhere—and my only regret was that I had to cram it into so few pages.

Soon afterward, while the penciled story was languishing on my desk, various editorial decisions were made which would affect the future and/or format of BRAVE & BOLD, so it was decided to integrate my off-beat tale into ALL-STAR SQUADRON, which I was happy to do.

Digging back into that 1942 period when Joe Simon and Jack Kirby took over the Sandman strip (starting with #7), dropped his purple cape into a convenient trashcan, and made the ol' sand-bagger the cover feature of many a Golden-Age issue of ADVENTURE, we dug up "The Villain from Valhalla," which had been reprinted some years back in Kirby's FOREVER PEOPLE #?. Thus an entire issue of ALL-STAR SQUADRON was born—and only you, the readers, can say whether we should all have left well enough alone.

But be honest—wouldn't you feel even odder if we had Sandman and Tarantula meet at some future All-Star soiree and just happen to be wearing nearly the same costume?

—Roy Thomas.

Dear Sirs:

The twentieth annual team-up of the JLA and JSA (with the All-Star Squadron thrown in for good measure) is proceeding very nicely. Two comments, though: (1) I know the Justice Society has something to do with this story, but they weren't in this issue, so why have their roll call on the cover? (2) After you conclude this five-parter, will you please keep Per Degaton on ice for a while? You've used him twice. You can only use someone who will become a lab assistant at the conclusion of every story so many times before he gets overused.

Delmo Walters Jr.
1299 Grand Concourse
Bronx, NY 10452

Possibly so, Del. And it's certainly true that, after the recent saga, we'll want a strong storyline (as we feel we had in Degaton's first two outings in the 80's) before we bring the Master of Worlds and Time back again. But we really don't know for certain that Degaton'll go back to being Professor Zee's lab assistant at the end of a story. After all, as readers of the (reprinted) ALL-STAR COMICS #35 and #37 know, something happened between those 1947 issues to turn the amnesiac lab assistant back into a would-be world conqueror—and one of these fine days, we're just liable to tell you what it was!

As for the four JSAers who appeared on the cover of #14 but not inside: We considered that special hero-filled border to be more of a general cover for the entire series rather than for any one issue. But if you missed Power Girl, the Huntress, Starman, and Dr. Fate, you sure got to see a few other Earth-Two heroes, even if only in Degaton's nightmare—namely Hawkman, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Phantom Lady, the Flash, Plastic Man, Dr. Mid-Nite, and the Atom. Hmmm... maybe you owe us money, now that we think about it...!

—R.T.

Dear People:

I've gone through more than a dozen issues of ALL-STAR SQUADRON and I hate to say that my verdict is not good. Come on, Roy! Let's leave the war behind! I couldn't stand your super-heroes-in-war bit at Marvel, and I can stand this one even less. At first the mag caught my eye—you know, all those forgotten heroes—but now I find this mag quite... boring. I never liked the ideas of super-heroes in war and I never will. I am sorry to say that after the JLA/JSA/All-Star team-up I will quit buying your magazine until you decide to leave the war behind.

William Kent
(No Address Given)

Obviously, William, there's no comic-book that everybody likes—not even TEEN TITANS! Still, if you do decide to peruse future issues, you'll find as much material not devoted to World War Two as will be. But if it's the era and milieu themselves you object to—well, we'll just have to be glad that hundreds of thousands of your fellow comics readers feel differently, and are interested more in the characters and stories than in the setting. Thanks for giving us a chance—and naturally we hope you change your mind, 'cause there's not much likelihood at present of our changing ours.

—R.T.

Dear Len and Roy,

I noticed a "blooper" in two issues of your JLA/JSA/All-Star team-up. Did Liberty Belle *actually* say "What" or "Who" in the situation shown in the final panel of both JLA #207 and ALL-STAR SQUADRON #14?

Don Sever
569 Thornton Av.
San Francisco, CA 94124

As the main Liberty Belle writer these days, Don, Roy T. can assure you it was "Who." Don't be too hard on Roy's friend and collaborator Gerry Conway, though. After all, he had to bear the burden of both starting and ending the multi-parter—perhaps the first time in modern comics history that such a tale has bounced from one book to another with different scripters—and believe us, it wasn't easy! Fact is, Gerry and Roy even considered using one of the five issues' letters pages to publish a chart of exactly who did what to whom and when. But they fought over which of them was to do it: Roy voted for Gerry, and Gerry voted for Roy. Finally they compromised—and decided editor Len Wein should do the honors. Len went away on a series of "fact-finding tours" to the summer comics conventions, and hasn't been heard from since... but if you want to take a stab at it...!

R.T.

Dear Roy,

After forty years of pre-established Earth-Two events, writing for the ALL-STAR SQUADRON must make you feel at times as if you're painting yourself into a corner. *But what a paint job!* Your matching of Golden-Age comics history with new plotlines has been an artistic (and I hope financial) success. Issue #3 is your masterpiece to date, and (with the possible exception of the JSA origin) the most important part of the Earth-Two mythos since the Golden Age faded away. I started with issue no. 1 and haven't missed one yet!

Lee Allred
P.O. Box 120
Altamont, UT 84001

Glad to hear it, Lee, and our apologies for not having space to print all your long letter with its constructive suggestions for future directions. Rest assured that every letter to ALL-STAR SQUADRON is read by both Ye Writer and by editor Len Wein.

As for what Roy himself (myself) is trying to do; we like to think an enthusiastic ALL-STAR booster at one of Adam Malin's Creation Conventions in San Diego came up with the best name for it, a few months back: **"Retroactive Continuity."** *Has kind of a ring, don't you think?*

—R.T.

COMING COMICS

COMING COMICS, DECEMBER 1982

ON SALE DECEMBER 9th

ADVENTURE COMICS DIGEST #497—Leading off is the concluding installment of the five-part origin of the CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN by Bob Rozakis, Alex Toth and Frank Giacoia. The two classic reprints this month are from the early days of THE LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES. From SUPERBOY #98 comes Ultra Boy's origin in "The Boy With Ultra Powers," and, from ADVENTURE COMICS #300, "The Face Behind the Lead Mask!" Also: AQUAMAN in "The Explanation"; THE SPECTRE in "Stop That Kid"; and the SHAZAM! story, "The Mighty Marvels Join Forces." The front cover is by Gil Kane, and the back cover is by Paris Cullins and Frank Giacoia.

THE FURY OF FIRESTORM #10—Pat Broderick returns, and a 3-part story featuring the attack of HYENA begins. Martin Stein's ex-wife also enters the picture in what promises to be startling developments over the next several issues—especially since it looks as if Stein's job is in jeopardy. Story by Gerry Conway, inks by Rodin Rodriguez, cover by Broderick.

SUPERMAN SPECIAL #1—A new Christmas season tradition begins! "Behold! The Ultimate Man!" is written, pencilled and inked by Gil Kane in this debut issue. The Man of Steel faces the end-result of a noble experiment gone awry—an attempt to create beings as advanced as SUPERMAN. Kane also did the cover.

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #212—One little man is the key to the salvation of the entire universe—and it's up to the JLA to see that he survives! It's the pulse-pounding final installment to this three-parter from the JLA casebook, written by Gerry Conway, drawn by Rich Buckler, inked by Romeo Tanghal and sporting a cover by George Perez.

THE BEST OF DC DIGEST #34—Featuring two classic stories of Doc Magnus and his robotic band—THE METAL MEN! Featured are "The Flaming Doom" from SHOWCASE #37-38, and the very first Chemo story, from SHOWCASE #39-40. The cover is by Ed Hannigan.

BLACKHAWK #256—BLACKHAWK has fallen victim to Nazi subterfuge and secret weaponry, leaving Stanislaus to lead the group as best he is able. Story by Mark Evanier, art by able Dan Spiegle.

WONDER WOMAN #301—The writer's reins are handed over to Dan Mishkin, who, along with editor Marv Wolfman, plans to delve deeply into the rich lore of the Princess of Paradise Island. Here, the Amazing Amazon is reacquainted with an ancestor. Plus: The Huntress!

ON SALE DECEMBER 9th

ARAK, SON OF THUNDER #19—As ARAK and crew continue their quest to find White Cathay, VALDA is blinded—and ARAK and SATYRICUS must obtain "The Stone of Sight" to restore her vision. Story by Roy Thomas, art by Adrian Gonzales and Alfredo Alcala. In the VALDA second feature, the Iron Maiden uncovers a plot to assassinate Carolus Magnus. Story by Roy and Danette Thomas, art by Gonzales and Alcala. Cover by Gonzales and Alcala.

DC COMICS PRESENTS #56—Teaming SUPERMAN and AIR WAVE; also guest-starring SUPERBOY and the original AIR WAVE. "The Parasite's Power Plays" is Rozakis, Alex Saviuk, and Pablo Marcos.

ON SALE DECEMBER 16th

BATMAN #357—The return of the slithery Squid! Gerry Conway, writer; Don Newton, penciller; Alfredo Alcala, inker. If you've not been paying attention to the Newton/Alcala BATMAN, this is the time to take a second look! Cover is by Ed Hannigan and Dick Giordano.

THE FLASH #319—Creed Phillips must choose between his own love for Fiona and his career as the Eradicator, while FLASH and CAPT. INVINCIBLE continue to stalk him. It's all in this story by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino and Dennis Jensen. Also: The CREEPER by Carl Gafford and British sensation Dave Gibbons.

G.I. COMBAT #251—Featuring THE HAUNTED TANK. In "No Son For A Sergeant," the crew's oldest member, Sgt. Craig, is reunited with his tankman son, Eddie. The second HAUNTED TANK tale is "The Souvenir Nobody Wanted" in which a small memento provides one of the crew with an unexpected but invaluable surprise. Also, "The Killer Cannon," featuring THE MERCENARIES, and two other exciting battle dramas. Cover by Kubert.

SUPERMAN #381—"Whose Super-Life Is It, Anyway? SUPERBOY's mind is still in the body of his adult self...leading to all sorts of confusion with the supporting cast—especially Lois. Story by Cary Bates, pencils by Curt Swan, inks by Dave Hunt.

THE NEW TEEN TITANS #29—The return of the insidious and very deadly Brotherhood of Evil! Story by Marv Wolfman, pencils by George Perez and inks by Romeo Tanghal. Cover by Perez.

THE SAGA OF THE SWAMP THING #11—"Heart of Stone, Feet of Clay" continues. In this chapter of the story which turns the Shambling Muckmonster's world on end, Dr. Kripptmann and his "secret operatives" create a golem to use against Karen Clancy. Story by Marty Pasko, and art by Tom Yeates, who also crafts the cover.